

Cover Story

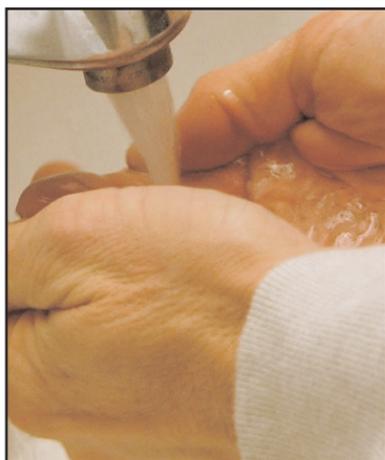
Who pays for the holidays?

With holiday shopping in full swing, find the best way to buy gifts without breaking the bank.

-Page 3



Photo by Airman 1st Class Chris Smith



Wash up:

Could avoiding disease be as simple as washing your hands?

-Page 4

Help available over the phone



Buckley joins other communities by making the use of a telephone directory service available on-base.

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Buckley Viewpoint: You can make a difference

Action Line

The following is an action line from William A. White, a retired United States Marine:

I retired as a full time teacher and coach in 1990 after 29 years. I am presently substitute teaching. I am now 68 years young, and I love, respect, admire and honor the United States of America to the fullest extent. The other day, in one of my high school classes, we were given the choice of standing and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and to my amazement, I was the only one stand-

ing. Since we can't say anything to the students about this, I was frustrated and disappointed. These young men and women need to understand what the Pledge of Allegiance means and honors. They are so fortunate to be able to live in this country and experience the many freedoms we have available to us. They also need to understand the reason we have these privileges is because of all the sacrifices so many men and women have paid to maintain these freedoms, over the years. Just in my lifetime, there has been

many wars our servicemen and women have served to preserve the freedoms we have and cherish. I learned patriotism, respect and honor starting with World War II, and have never stopped learning after Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Lebanon, Bosnia, Gulf War and now the war in Iraq. My time in the United States Marine Corps (1956-58) reinforced my feelings to the highest level. How many men and women have to lost their lives and limbs over this period of time in order to keep our country free?

The Commander's Action Line is a way for the Front Range military community to bring issues, concerns and comments (positive or negative) to my attention.

The action line phone number is 303-677-9881.

When leaving messages, people are not required to identify themselves. However, if you'd like a personal response, please leave your name, telephone number and mailing address. Provide as many specifics on your issue as possible. If you have a recommended solution, include it as well. Not all action lines will be published.

If the issue is detailed or lengthy, you may also send items to me through the 460th Air Base Wing Public Affairs Office via fax at 303-677-6887, e-mail to newspaper@buckley.af.mil or mail your submission to the following address:

**Commander's Action Line
c/o 460 ABW/PA
18401 E. A-Basin Stop 88
Buckley AFB CO 80011-9524**

Please use this valuable communication tool. I look forward to hearing new ideas and answering your questions.

Allen Kirkman Jr.
ALLEN KIRKMAN JR.
Colonel, USAF
Commander



Col. Allen Kirkman Jr.

History Tidbits

Significance of the 460th Communications Squadron emblem



Blue and yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The globe symbolizes the totality of the Armed Forces and the solid ground, which the unit ensures for their support. The wings and star represent space and satellite communications. The lightning bolt and radio waves symbolize the communication abilities of the unit above and around the globe.

Buckley's Weekend Weather Forecast



Friday:
Mostly sunny

*High: 44
Low: 27*



Saturday:
Partly cloudy

*High: 57
Low: 32*



Sunday:
Partly cloudy

*High: 53
Low: 21*

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, www.weather.gov

Cover Story

Good money management makes holidays more merry

By Airman 1st Class Chris Smith
460th Public Affairs

Cha-ching! That's a sound many people might find all too familiar during the holidays.

For some, the sound brings a smile as they imagine the look on someone's face as he or she receives a gift. For others, it's the sound of increasing debt reaching ever higher levels because they didn't prepare for their holiday spending.

The holiday season is a time when a careful eye on your finances throughout the year can pay off, says Bob Matzke, Buckley's Personal Financial Management Program manager and Air Force Aid Society officer. And according to Matzke, all it takes is a little planning.

Many people do not have a savings plan, and many turn to credit when cash is not available. This is where trouble can start.

"I see a lot of people only using credit during the holidays," said Matzke. "What they're doing is just obligating future money to pay back credit cards."

The problem with using credit is that most people tend to spend more than they would if they paid in cash.

While it may be too late to start this year, there are different types of spending plans that can be set up to save up holiday cash for next year and avoid relying on credit, according to Matzke.

"People should set a month-to-month spending plan and work holiday spending into that budget," said Matzke.

Another method could be to set up a savings account separate from your primary account, with an allotment going into that account every

payday. Some people call this a 'Christmas Club account.'

Many people may not be able to spare money for a savings account. In this situation, members should begin to think about the pay raises next year. Whatever increase in pay people receive, they can put most or all of it into a savings account and it shouldn't affect them much because they got by without that money before.

Matzke says for people that have difficulties saving money each month and don't want to use credit during the holidays, there is another option.

"If you have a pretty good idea of what gifts you want to buy, you can buy them throughout the year. There are sales throughout the year, and (you can) also use coupons," said Matzke.

"(You can give) gift certificates or cash for after-holiday sales and then they get what they want," he said.

Shopping throughout the year is a trick not only known by Matzke. Jeff Harder, 460th Air Base Wing safety manager, says he does all his shopping before the holiday season has even arrived.

"By the end of October, I'm done buying all my Christmas

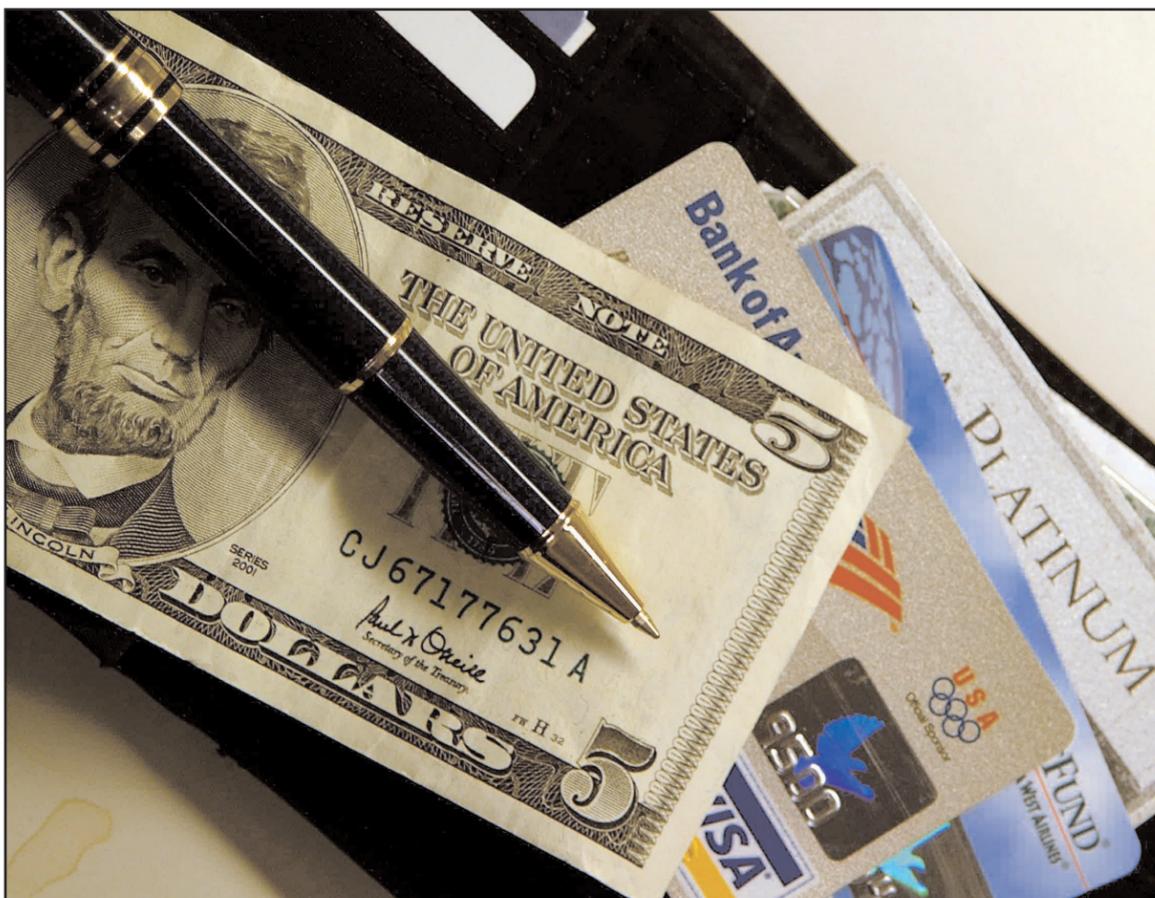


Photo by Airman 1st Class Chris Smith

Credit cards are one of the most used forms of payment to buy gifts during the holiday season. According to Bob Matzke, people generally spend more using credit cards than they would if they were paying with cash.

stuff," said Harder.

Harder said he shops throughout the year to avoid holiday shopping crowds at stores and to have time for comparison-shopping. He said comparing prices doesn't save a lot, but usually a few bucks here and there.

2nd Lt. Paul Bogacz, 460th Air Base Wing executive officer, takes a different and fairly new approach to holiday shopping.

"I do all my shopping online and look for deals," said Bogacz. "Sometimes you get incentives online like 10 or 20 percent off and free shipping to get you to buy from that web site."

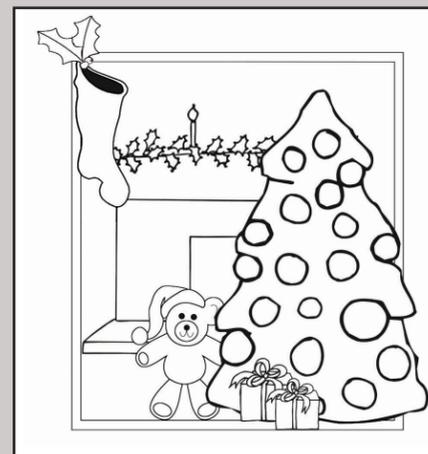
There is one thing Matzke says about people who spend too much

or have to use credit during the holidays: The holidays come at the same time every year, so it shouldn't come as a surprise to anybody."

No matter what you're method is for holiday shopping, if you save up the money to shop with and avoid credit cards, you're probably going to have a little less stress during the holiday season. And with the approach of a new year, putting money into savings each month should be a resolution.

To talk to Bob Matzke about budgeting and debt management classes or one-on-one money counseling, call 303-677-6708.

Don't forget to send us your coloring contest submissions from the Nov. 21 edition of *Mile High Guardian*. The person whose art work is chosen will get to see it on the cover page of the Dec. 19 issue. Submissions should be dropped off at the public affairs office in Bldg. 606. Submissions must be received by Dec. 10. (It is preferred that submissions be turned in at the public affairs office to avoid folds in the artwork from being mailed.)



Shigellosis cases appear in Aurora...

Good personal hygiene best bet to prevent illness

By Master Sgt. Deb Smith
460th Public Affairs

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports that as of Nov. 16, there have been 273 cases of shigellosis reported in the state of Colorado. Of those, 55 new cases were reported in the city of Aurora.

Shigellosis is an infectious disease caused by bacteria known as *shigella*. Most who are infected develop severe diarrhea—often bloody, high fever, and stomach cramps that appear one to two days after exposure.

And according to Gary Sky, Public Information Officer for the Tri-County Health Department, two Aurora childcare centers have had outbreaks severe enough to close them temporarily.

While there have been no cases reported on Buckley as of yet, Capt. Tolani Francisco, Chief of 460th Public Health Element suggests, the cause of the shigellosis spread may be quite simple.

“While the source of the infection (in the Aurora outbreak) has not been identified,” said Francisco. “Its spread is most likely attributed to poor hygiene (hand washing) procedures.”

The bacteria must be swallowed to cause the disease, as stated in a report from Ohio State University’s Family and Consumer Sciences Division. The germs are often spread when people do not properly wash their hands with soap and water after using the toilet or

changing a diaper. People who get the germs on their hands can easily infect themselves by eating, smoking, or touching their mouths. They can also spread the germs to anyone or anything they touch, making others sick.

The reports added, that in rare cases, shigella germs may also be spread through swimming pools that do not use adequate amounts of chlorine. When swimmers who are infected enter the pool, the bacteria can live in the water and infect other swimmers who swallow the water or, in some cases, even get their lips wet.

Shigellosis usually lasts from five to seven days. In some people, especially young children and the elderly, the diarrhea can be so severe that hospitalization may be required. A severe infection with high fever may also be associated with seizures in children less than two years old.

Some of those infected may not have any symptoms at all, but can still pass on the *shigella* bacteria.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), an estimated 300,000 cases of shigellosis occur annually in the U.S.; the number attributable to food is unknown, but given the low infectious dose, it is probably



Photo by Airman 1st Class Chris Smith

Washing your hands could be one of the simplest ways to avoid contracting diseases like Shigellosis. Shigellosis germs can be spread by not washing hands after using the restroom or changing a babies

substantial.

You can prevent shigellosis, as well as the spread of other diseases by following these tips:

- ♦ Always wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before eating, touching or preparing food, and especially after using the restroom or changing diapers.
- ♦ If you are taking care of children with shigella symptoms, scrub your hands with plenty of soap and warm water. Do so after cleaning the bathroom, helping the child use the toilet, or changing diapers.
- ♦ Do not share food, drinks, spoons or straws or allow children to do the same.
- ♦ If you have a child in daycare

who has diarrhea, alert the daycare providers. They can make sure potential germs are not spread to other children.

- ♦ Do not let anyone who has diarrhea use a pool or swim in a pond while they are sick. Be extra careful with small children, especially if they are in diapers.
- ♦ If you or your child has persistent symptoms (with or without a fever), or if the symptoms are severe, call your doctor or health care center for advice.

For more information on shigella or shigellosis, visit the CDC’s web site at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/shigellosis_g.htm.

A safety tip from your Buckley Safety office:

Airbags are not a substitute for seatbelts. Combined with lap and shoulder belts, they offer the most effective safety protection available today for a car’s occupants. Airbags are supplemental protection and are not designed to deploy in all crashes.

Sitting too close to an airbag can be dangerous. Drivers should be seated at least 10 inches away from the steering wheel. Children under the age of 12 should not sit in the front seat of a vehicle equipped with passenger side airbags. Also, passengers should never rest their feet on dashboards of vehicles having passenger side airbags. Should the airbag deploy, the passenger’s feet and legs would be blown upward into the windshield, possibly causing serious injuries.

THE BLOTTER ENTRIES

POV vs. GOV

Location: Bldg. 41, Visitor's Center

A military member notified the law enforcement desk that there was an accident in the parking lot of Bldg. 41, the visitor's center. The operator of vehicle one had illegally parked his vehicle and the operator of vehicle two backed into it. Both drivers completed minor vehicle accident worksheets.

Loud Noise Complaint

Location: Bldg. 28, Dormitory

A military member notified the law enforcement desk that there was loud noise coming from a nearby room in Bldg. 28, the dormitory. One patrol was dispatched. When security forces tried to contact the occupant of the room, there was no response. The member's first sergeant was contacted and responded. Upon entry to the room, the member was not present so a note was left to report to the first sergeant's desk the next duty day.

Emergency Response

Location: Bldg. 1, Base Exchange

The fire department notified the law enforcement desk that an engine was responded to Bldg. 1, the Base Exchange for a fire alarm. As fire department personnel entered the building, they discovered the cause of the alarm was a

broken pipe in the commissary. Alarm technicians were called to check out and reset all the alarms.

Possible DUI

Location: Sixth Avenue Gate

A security forces member notified the law enforcement desk that he noticed erratic driving from a military member approaching the Sixth Avenue Gate. As the driver stopped at the gate, security forces found two open alcoholic containers inside the vehicle. One patrol was dispatched. A standard field sobriety test was performed and passed.

Emergency Response

Location: Bldg. 703, Flight Line

The 140th Security Forces control center notified the law enforcement desk that there was a fuel spill with an F-16 fighter jet on the flight line. Security forces patrols were dispatched for assistance. The fire department arrived and placed an absorbent on the spill. The response was terminated when the fuel spill was contained.

Emergency Response

Location: Bldg. 490, Aerospace Data Facility North Lobby

The fire department notified the law enforcement desk that an engine responded to Bldg. 490, the Aerospace Data Facility north lobby, where someone had lost consciousness. One patrol was dispatched for assistance. The indi-

vidual was treated and transported to a nearby medical facility.

Emergency Response

Location: Bldg. 730, Media Center

A security forces member notified the law enforcement desk that an individual had lost consciousness in Bldg. 730, the media center. An ambulance was escorted by security forces and the individual was transported to a local medical facility.

Helping Hand

Location: Restricted Area

The law enforcement desk received an unannounced alarm where an individual was observed standing in the clear zone of the restricted area. Security forces patrols were dispatched. The individual stated he was throwing keys to another individual. The individual whom the keys were thrown to arrived to show the keys that were thrown to security forces.

Unlocked facility

Location: Bldg. 1301, Naval Reserve Center

Security forces notified the law

enforcement desk that a door on the southeast side of Bldg. 1301, the Naval Reserve Center, was found unlocked with no signs of forced entry. Security forces patrols were dispatched for assistance. Security forces established a cordon and completed a walk-around of the facility. The command duty officer was notified and completed an interior sweep of the building with security forces. Everything appeared to be in order and no further actions were taken.



Buckley VIEWPOINT

Contrary to popular belief, one person makes difference

By Staff Sgt. Jamesha M. Jones
11th Wing Reserve Affairs Office

BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE, DC — Have you ever had an issue or idea you wanted someone to take action on, but felt like nobody would listen to you? Then, if someone did listen to you, did you find them saying, “It’s not going to happen because it would take an act of Congress to make those changes?”

Regardless of past letdowns and frustration, I know from personal experience that you can make a difference.

I had the honor of attending the Air Force Reserve Advisory Board recently.

The AFRAB is the primary forum to develop and implement clear policies for the Air Force Reserve. The board studies complicated Reserve issues, channels multiple-service initiatives to the Air Reserve Forces Policy Committee and helps develop proposed legislation of benefit to the Air Force Reserve.

My week began with a series of briefings on how the legislative process works.

At first, I thought I was back in high school learning civics all over again, except I learned a whole new language.

Terms like ULB, which means unified legislative and budget; appropriators; authorizers; HASC, or House Armed Services Committee; and SASC, which is the Senate Armed Services Committee, were explained to the group so we could understand the language of “the Hill” and why it takes so long to change existing law.

After our visit to the Capitol, we

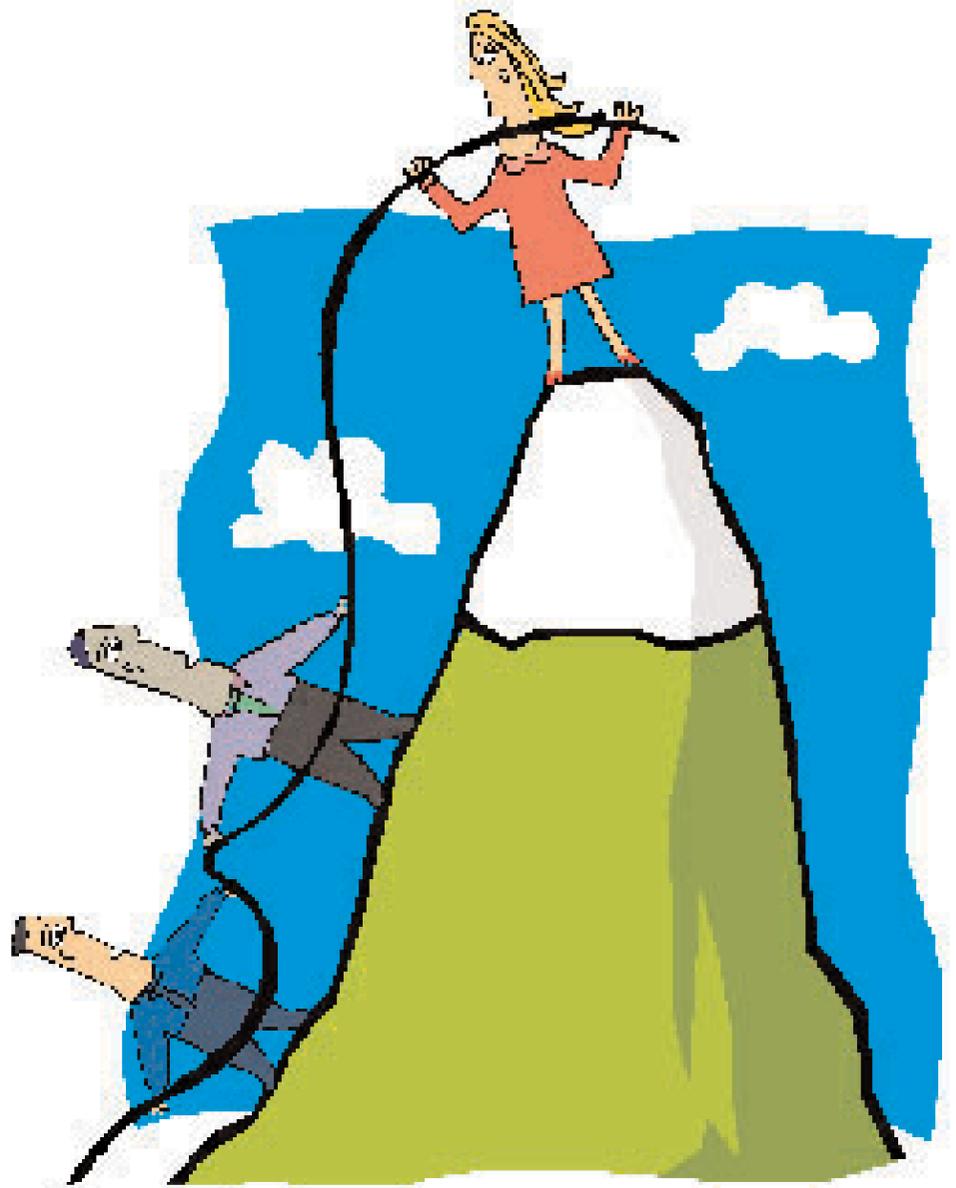
were ready to get down to business.

The AFRAB receives issues from people throughout the Air Force. Most of the input comes via e-mail.

The advisory board consists of active duty members, active Guard members, active Reserve members, individual mobilization augmentees, traditional reservists and civilians from different major commands, bases and Air Force specialty codes and grades. The members are subdivided into smaller working groups who are given specific issues that are submitted. These issues are then defined, different options for solutions are explained and a course of action is recommended.

My group was responsible for discussing many different issues. One particular issue we discussed came from a member requesting the Montgomery GI Bill cover certification testing for reservists. The member wanted to know why active-duty members can use the GI Bill to cover certification testing and reservists can’t. The member believed by providing an incentive for reservists to get certification, they would have more knowledge to support the mission. After much debate, the recommendation from the board was to have AFRC step forward with a legislative initiative on the subject.

Sometimes, we may not think our issues are very important, but unless we bring them to someone’s attention, we will never know. Prior to attending the meeting, I had no knowledge of the AFRAB. This was my first experience, and I recommend it for junior enlisted troops because it provides the



opportunity to see firsthand how policy changes take place. It also gives junior troops the chance to have their voices heard on issues that affect the Air Force community.

The forum is very relaxed and the committee members really listen to opinions and invite feedback. I walked away realizing I benefited from those who stood up in the past and fought for changes. Their perseverance paved the path we are on and it is up to each of us to get

involved and stay the course. That is why it is important to understand the process and to know the “majority” of one can make a difference.

If you are interested in or would like more information about the AFRAB, go to <http://www.afrc.af.mil/special/afgrab/afgrab.htm/>.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News Service)

MILE HIGH GUARDIAN

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by or under the direction of the Public Affairs Office at Buckley Air Force Base.

The *Mile High Guardian* welcomes unsolicited articles; however, we will

not guarantee publication. The editorial staff, listed to the right, also reserves the right to edit the final appearance of articles in this publication. All submissions are edited for accuracy, brevity, clarity and military newspaper style in line with current journalistic standards.

To reach us, call 303-677-9431 or you can fax us at 303-677-6887.

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Editor

Airman 1st Class
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Buckley Happenings

Military Personnel Flight

The Military Personnel Flight (MPF) customer service desk will be the home of the new Personnel/Finance customer service desk. This merger will allow all personnel to be serviced at one location rather than two separate offices.

In order to improve customer support, it will be necessary to first complete the required construction at the MPF. Beginning Dec. 8, the MPF customer service counter in Bldg. 606 will be closed while construction takes place.

The estimated date the MPF will reopen is Jan. 2.

Telluride Gate

The Telluride Gate is now open for use with the traffic lights being operational. People using the Telluride Gate as well as

other gates are expected to be careful at all times and yield to vehicles with the right of way.

Mile High Guardian

The *Mile High Guardian* is now available online! Log on to www.buckley.af.mil and click on the *Mile High Guardian* link to view current or past editions.

Story ideas are always welcome. If you have a story idea, send an e-mail to newspaper@buckley.af.mil, call us at 303-677-9431 or send us a fax at 303-677-6887. Submissions are also welcome.

The last issue of the year will be published on Dec. 19, with the first issue of 2004 being published Jan. 9.

Thrift

Shop

The Thrift Shop will be open Saturday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. No consignments will be taken this month. The holiday schedule will follow in next week's issue of the *Mile High Guardian*.

Services Division

The community activities center is inviting all Buckley tenant organizations to participate in the Holiday Card Contest.

To take part, organizations should provide a 4-foot by 8-foot holiday card constructed of plywood with a six inch stake so it can be placed in the ground.

The cards should be in good taste and represent the non-demonominational spirit of the season. Turn in cards at the community activities center Dec. 1-15.

A contest will be judged by the wing commander to determine the first, second and third place winners.

Winners will be announced and cash prizes will be awarded on Dec. 19 at 11 a.m. at the community activities center in Mod. 2.

All cards will be displayed throughout the base during the upcoming holiday season.

For more information, contact the community activities center at 303-677-9337.

People planning to attend SnoFest!!! at Keystone Resort Jan. 30 - Feb. 1 should reserve lodging as soon as possible.

The cutoff date to reserve rooms blocked for SnoFest!!! is Jan. 7, so members should book right away to ensure the best rates and availability.

Everyone who stays in Keystone lodging gets a Mountain Passport good for many free activities such as day-of-arrival night skiing, a scenic sleigh ride, ice skating, snowshoeing, Nordic trail and more.

To reserve lodging call 1-800-258-0437 and men-

tion group code GL1GSNO and your base affiliation.

The Denver Nuggets would like to show their appreciation for all of our military members across the Front Range with a special night when military members can purchase tickets for the Denver Nuggets vs. Golden State Warriors game on Dec. 28. The discounted price for military members is just \$6. For more information call the Information Tickets and Tours office at 303-677-6853.

Military Equal Opportunity

The 460th Air Base Wing Military Equal Opportunity office is giving away free badge holders and lanyards to anyone wanting one. Just visit their office in Bldg. 606, Room 185 and pick up yours. Units wishing to also have a supply on hand for their personnel may contact

High Frontier Dining Facility Menu (Dec. 5 - 11)

Dining hours

Breakfast: 5:30 a.m. - 8 a.m.; Lunch: 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Dinner: 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.; Midnight Meal: 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
LUNCH	Egg drop soup Pot roast Baked stuffed fish Roast loin of pork Oven brown potatoes Steamed rice Brown gravy Cauliflower combo Succotash Green beans with mushrooms	Creole soup Teriyaki chicken Veal parmesan Salmon cakes Filipino rice Parsley butter potatoes Mushroom gravy Fried cabbage Succotash Mixed vegetables	Cream of potato BBQ ham steak Turkey and noodles Beef ball stroganoff Boiled egg noodles Mashed potatoes Brown gravy Calico corn Spinach Lima beans	Tomato bouillon Herbed baked chicken Stuffed cabbage Southern fried catfish Mashed potatoes Black-eyed peas with rice Peas Sweet potatoes Chicken/turkey gravy Sweet potatoes Mixed vegetables	Italian garden soup Mexican baked chicken Swiss steak w/ tomato sauce Stuffed green pepper Baked macaroni and cheese Steamed rice Vegetable gravy Corn on the cob Spanish style beans Peas and carrots	Pepper pot soup Crispy baked chicken Cajun meatloaf Rib-eye steak Baked potatoes Mashed potatoes Brown gravy Broccoli French style peas Glazed carrots	Cream of broccoli soup Tuna and noodles Sauerbraten Chicken breast parmesan Au gratin potatoes Steamed rice Cream gravy Cauliflower combo Peas Fried cabbage
DINNER	Egg drop soup Chili macaroni Cannelloni beef Southern fried chicken Cottage fried potatoes Mashed potatoes Chicken/turkey gravy Steamed squash Glazed carrots French style peas Short Order: Grilled Polish sausage Steak and cheese sub	Creole soup Country captain chicken Meatloaf Turkey a la King Steamed rice Mashed potatoes Mushroom gravy Harvard baked beans Mustard greens Okra/tomato gumbo Short Order: Sloppy BBQ beef Roast beef sub	Cream of potato soup Lemon herb chicken BBQ spareribs Stuffed pork chops Scalloped potatoes Steamed rice Brown gravy Cauliflower combo Mexican rice Tempura vegetables Short Order: Cheese fishwich Monte Cristo sandwich	Tomato bouillon Roast loin of pork Jaeger w/mushroom sauce Cornish hen Potato halves Orange rice Chicken/turkey gravy Simmered pinto beans Corn combo Short Order: Cannonball sandwich Italian pepper beef sandwich	Italian garden soup Lasagna Spaghetti w/meat sauce Sweet Italian sausage Mashed potatoes Vegetable gravy Broccoli polonaise Cauliflower Italian style baked beans Short Order: BBQ pork sandwich Burritos	Pepper pot soup Fish Almondine Stir fry chicken with broccoli Pork chops w/ mushroom gravy Risque potatoes Rice pilaf Brown gravy Fried okra Short Order: Buffalo wings Hot Italian sausage sandwich	Cream of broccoli soup Ginger BBQ chicken Fried shrimp Seafood cocktail Spinach lasagna Orange rice Mashed potatoes Cream gravy Black-eyed peas Corn O'Brien Short Order: Cheese pizza Reuben sandwich

Star Performer

Name: Tech. Sgt. Antoinette T. Buntin

Unit: 460th Logistic Readiness Squadron

Time in Service: 11 years

Duty Title: Traffic Management Office Quality Assurance inspector

Hometown: St. Thomas, U. S. Virgin Islands

Hobbies: Reading, listening to music and enjoying the company of others

How do your day-to-day duties contribute to mission success?

My job impacts every member of the military. If a member goes on a temporary duty assignment they use the services we provide to arrange plane tickets or short time storage depending on their entitlement. When a member is changing stations they see me to make sure their household goods are relocated to and from one location to another. My job contributes to the mission because it is my job to make a member's change of station go as smoothly as possible. Lowering members' stress levels allows the

transition to their new assignment to be smoother and allowing them to meet the demands of the mission.

If you could change one thing about the Air Force, what would it be?

If I could change one thing about the Air Force it would be the way selective reenlistment bonuses (SRB) are given out. I would eliminate the zones. No matter how large or small an SRB would be given out two times in a member's career to people in critical career fields. The first SRB at the ten-year mark, the second at the fifteen-year mark. I think if we have a shortage of personnel in a career field the awards should go to the personnel fully trained and that have made a commitment to the military and the mission.

What has been your most memorable experience in the Air Force?

One of my most memorable experiences in the Air Force came while being a part of the Patrick Air Force Base Honor Guard. I was honored to present the flag to the spouse of a second lieutenant nurse



Photo courtesy of Master Sgt. James Wilkins

Tech. Sgt. Antoinette T. Buntin takes a break at her desk in the Logistics Readiness Squadron.

that served in the World War II Women's Army Corp.

Duties, responsibilities and accomplishments:

Duties include quality control inspector for inbound and outbound personal property shipments for 24 counties. Inspect household goods shipments for all Department of Defense personnel. I am responsible for ensuring shipments are properly packed and unpacked. Prepare reports of inspections when discrepancies and violations of

service tender and contract violations occur on household goods shipments. Inspects contracted storage warehouse facilities. Accounts for government owned containers used by contractors to transport household goods. One of the accomplishment I am most proud of is I have taken the skills from my job in logistics and used it with an organization called Metro Volunteer Project C.U.R.E. were I help sort, pack and ship supplies used to help thousands of people in countries around the world.

Donated miles help American heroes fly home

By Master Sgt. Deb Smith,
460th Public Affairs

On Thanksgiving Eve, more than 5,000 service members gave thanks for the generosity of thousands of Americans whom donated their frequent flyer miles to Operation Hero Miles. The program, founded by U.S. Rep. C.A. "Dutch" Ruppertsberger (D-MD 2d) allows travelers to donate frequent-flier miles to help service members on rest and recreation (R and R) or emergency leave from Iraq reach their destinations.

"Americans across the country are stepping up in amazing numbers," said Ruppertsberger in a recent press release. "This overwhelming response to 'Operation Hero Miles' has been absolutely amazing and inspiring and it means even more during the holidays."

Servicemembers on R & R or emergency leave (family death, birth, illness or other unforeseen event) are flown free of charge by the military to Germany or three airports in the United States, Baltimore/Washington, (BWI), Dallas/Fort Worth, (DFW), or Atlanta, (ATL) via scheduled charter airlift or space available. Once they reach their U.S. port of entry, they are responsible for the cost of the remainder of their journey home—often at high-priced last minute fares.

Servicemembers have been pay-

ing for their flights inside the U.S. to their final destinations, until Congress provided funding on Nov. 3, 2003. However, according to Ruppertsberger, this funding is not yet available and may not be sufficient for all the troops or troops on "emergency leave".

This is where Operation Hero Miles can help.

The nerve center for Operation Hero Miles is its Web site, www.heromiles.org. The online location serves as a "clearinghouse for information for service members and their families regarding the program, as well as frequent flyers who wish to donate miles. It also provides information on how to donate frequent-flier miles and how service members can receive complimentary tickets.

Ruppertsberger added that Operation Hero Miles hit a milestone Thanksgiving Eve when the site logged that more than 133 million frequent flyer miles had been donated to the program. "The generosity of thousands of travelers this holiday season means soldiers can get 5,350 free plane tickets allowing them to spend quality time with family and friends without worrying about how much it will cost."

How to Donate

Travelers can donate their frequent flyer miles by visiting the web site, www.heromiles.org, or by visiting the participating airlines

web sites, Air Tran Airways, Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Delta Airlines, Southwest Airlines, Pan Am-Boston Maine Airways, United Airlines.

available, so tickets will usually be made available to those with the greatest need or the most severe financial burden, or at random.

Alaska Airlines' free ticket program started on Nov.

1, and

ends on

Sept.

30,

2004.

The

Combined

Forces Land

Component

Commander

(CFLCC) will

administer the

use of donated

miles for eligible

members of the

U.S. Armed Forces

stationed in Iraq.

Delta Airlines' free

ticket program started on

Nov. 1, and ends on Sept.

30, 2004. Eligible soldiers

stationed in Iraq will be select-

ed by the Combined Forces Land

Component Commander (CFLCC)

to receive round-trip award tickets

once a month.

Southwest Airlines' allows Rapid

Rewards tickets to be donated to

the troops; partial awards credits

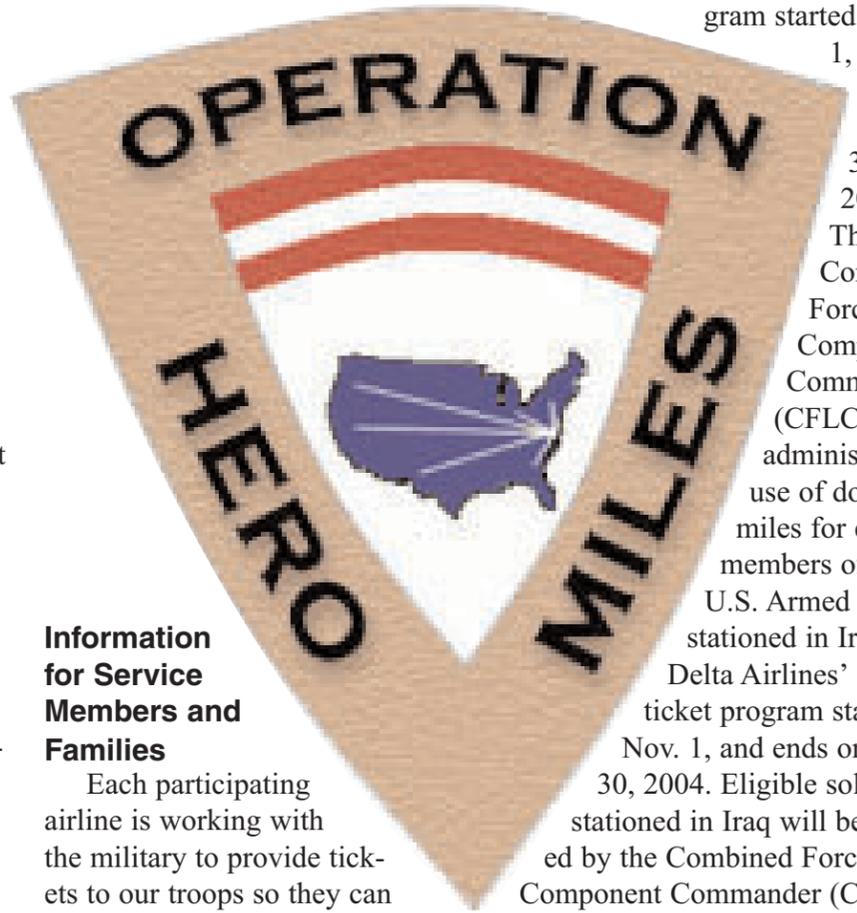
cannot be donated. Eligible soldiers

stationed in Iraq will be selected by

the Combined Forces Land

Component Commander (CFLCC)

to receive round-trip award tickets.



Information for Service Members and Families

Each participating airline is working with the military to provide tickets to our troops so they can fly home on their R and R or emergency leave. The rules and procedures for transferring miles to the Department of Defense are set by each airline, and will vary from airline to airline.

In general, soldiers should check with their command for ticket eligibility. Unfortunately, many more soldiers need tickets than are

Filing taxes made easier with statements available on myPay

ARLINGTON, Va. — Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials have compiled a schedule of dates when servicemembers, military retirees and annuitants and defense civilian employees can access their tax statements through myPay.

Military members and Department of Defense civilian

employees will have access to view, save and print their tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. For assistance, users can call myPay customer support at 1-800-390-2348.

MyPay provides a secure method for users to manage their pay account information, officials said. Available around the clock, customers can make changes

online, instead of visiting a finance office.

Officials are projecting the tax statements will be posted on myPay during the following periods.

— Military annuitants: Dec. 13 to 18

— DoD civilians: Dec. 24 to 29

— Army, Air Force and Navy reserve components: Dec. 26 to Jan. 1

— Military retirees: Jan. 1 to 5

— Marine Corps active duty and Reserve: Jan. 13 to 21

— Army, Air Force and Navy

active duty: Jan. 16 to 26

“During 2003, more than 1.2 million users viewed their tax statements on myPay, and we continue to encourage users to view and print their statements online,” said Pat Shine, director of DFAS’ military and civilian pay services business line.

“Timely access to W-2s and other tax statements is another way myPay gives users control of their pay information.”

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News Service)



Applications for Gen. Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program available

Courtesy of 460th Family Support Center

Applications for the 2004-2005 Gen. Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program is now available at the Air Force Aid Society website, www.afas.org under Education and Arnold Grant. In addition, applications are being sent directly to students who previously applied for the 2003-2004 academic year. The deadline is March 12, 2004. Awards for the 2004-2005 academic

year will be announced in June 2004. Last year’s 3,500 award recipients can attest to the value of completing the application process.

Since its inception in 1942, the Air Force Aid Society (AFAS) has been committed to helping Air Force members and their families realize their academic goals. In recent years, the Society’s emphasis has been on direct funding of new initiatives that provide greater value to Air

Force families.

The educational grant program is again being offered to dependent children of active duty, ‘title 10 Reservists on extended active duty, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty, retired Air Force members, retired reservists with more than 20 years of qualifying service, and deceased Air Force members. Spouses of active duty members and Title 10 Reservists residing and attending school within the

continental US, and surviving spouses of Air Force members who died while on active duty or in retired status are also eligible candidates. All eligible students must enroll as full-time undergraduates in colleges, universities or vocational/trade schools whose accreditation is approved by the US Department of Education for participation in federal aid programs and must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 grading scale.

Use of funds is limited to tuition, books and fees, or other direct educational expenses. Senior NCOs and officers should not opt out of the competition just because they believe their rank or income disqualifies them. In addition to the website www.afas.org for downloading the application, applications can be picked up at the Buckley Air Force Aid Society office, Bldg. 606. For more information call 303-677-6708 or 1-800-429-9475.

Front Range servicemembers prepare to slice up SnoFest!!!

By 1st Lt. Suzy Kohout
Air Force Space Command
Public Affairs

Get out those skis and snowboards and sign up for the Commander's Cup team and individual races during Keystone's SnoFest!!! weekend, Jan. 29 to Feb. 1.

Registration for all SnoFest!!! racers must be completed by Jan. 21. Registration information may be picked up at Information, Tickets and Tours or the Outdoor Recreation offices. The racing begins Jan. 30.

For two days skiers, snowboarders and combined teams can challenge themselves to the NASTAR slalom course and racing is free. It's a great time for beginners to

advanced skiers and riders.

Commander's Cup race skiers and snowboarders can sign up for two different races: the Broken Tip team and the individual ski and snowboard competitions.

The Commander's Cup team consists of racers who must be assigned to the same squadron, unit, or organization. Each team must have at least one snowboarder and only five teams can be registered from each military installation. If teams do not have a snowboarder, they will receive a 15-second reduction from the overall team score.

The Broken Tip team consists of an installation or major command commander, three hand picked team members and one snowboarder. Only one team will be regis-



tered from each installation or MAJCOM.

The individual ski and snowboard racers include four categories: cadets, teens, youth and adult open races.

All eligible services customers, who include active duty, civilian employees, reservists, retirees and family members, may compete.

Trophies will be handed out to the first, second and third place racers in the Team ski or the Broken Tip team races as well as the individual ski and snowboard competitions. The Commander's Cup tro-

phy will be handed out during the evening SnoFest!!! party. The fastest time out of two runs will be counted toward individual and team scores.

Race day check in is at the Mountain House Silverthorne Room from 8 to 9 a.m. both race days.

For more information or registration and schedule forms stop by or contact Outdoor Recreation at 303-677-9609, 303-677-6101 or the ITT office at 303-677-6853.

Alaska base's airman help Santa send holiday mail to thousands

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska — Combat weather flight airmen here will once again help Santa send out thousands of signed, North Pole-postmarked letters to children worldwide.

The Santa's Mailbag program started in 1954 by 58th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron airmen, and has been car-

ried on by those of the 354th Operations Support Squadron.

Each year, the unit receives thousands of Dear Santa Claus letters and Christmas-wish lists. Volunteers in the 15-person unit sort and read the letters, select an appropriate reply from Santa Claus and mail the letters with an official North Pole postmark.

"Last year, we received about 3,000 letters," said Capt. Thomas Crenshaw, combat weather flight chief.

The volunteers will continue to process letters through Christmas. The flight must receive letters to Santa by mid-December to ensure a reply before Christmas. Children whose letters arrive too late will get a special "after

Christmas" letter from Santa.

Children can write to Santa at:

Santa's Mailbag
354th OSS/OSW
2827 Flightline Ave. Suite 100B
Eielson AFB AK
99702-1520



Easy access to community information available with 2-1-1

Courtesy of
460th Communications
Squadron

Every hour of every day, someone in the United States needs essential services from finding resources for basic human needs to securing adequate care for a child or an aging parent.

Faced with a dramatic increase in the number of agencies and help lines, people often don't know where to turn. In many cases, people end up going without these necessary and readily available services because they do not know where to start.

Services offered through 2-1-1 provide callers with information about or referrals to health and human services for every day needs and in times of crisis.

Callers can speak with live referral specialists and receive comprehensive community information by dialing the three-digit number 2-1-1. No more wrong numbers; no more wasted time trying to find

the right resource. It is confidential.

2-1-1 maintains the integrity of the 9-1-1 emergency system, saving that vital community resource for life or death emergencies.

Examples of some of the calls...A mother asking about counseling and anger management programs for teens for her 14-year-old son who had been suspended from school because of a fist fight...An operator calling on behalf of a man with a hearing impairment who has just had a hip operation, who needs to find a cleaning service...A man wanting to get involved in meaningful volunteer activities.

Mile High United Way provides the 2-1-1 Center operating in the Denver Metro area. The service is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Planning is in place to have this service available 24 hours, 7 days a week

in the entire state of Colorado by 2005.

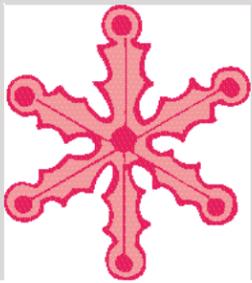
Easy access to 2-1-1 has been made available on base by the 460th Communications Squadron and the Family Support Center. All customers utilizing the base switch

may dial 99 + 2-1-1 from their office phone. Our leaders are proud to make this service available to our base community.

For additional information contact Monica Hutchins, 303-677-6681.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Chris Smith



BUCKLEY SNOW CALL/STRAIGHT TALK LINE: 303-677-SNOW

During inclement weather, this hotline is for information such as base closures or delayed reporting.

This line is also used for updates during crisis situations.

The hotline is updated by 4:30 a.m. on inclement weather days and whenever crisis situations arise.



'Starr' helps NORAD track Santa through use of new 'SantaCam'

By Tech. Sgt. Michael Phillips
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. -- A "Starr" in the east will help guide North American Aerospace Defense Command's Santa-tracking tradition Dec. 24. The Starr is none other than former Beatle, Ringo Starr, who will be NORAD'S honorary Santa tracker for Christmas 2003.

"Santa and I are personal friends," Starr said from his home in England. "He's asked me to do this special job with this incredible new SantaCam, and I'll be tracking him as he comes over Great Britain."

NORAD technicians upgraded the omnidirectional high-speed digital SantaCam stationed in Great Britain and have moved it from Stonehenge to a top-secret hide-away near Starr's home.

"We took it offline for awhile and upgraded it, and gave it some new capabilities," said Maj. Doug Martin, NORAD Santa-tracking operations chief. "We then began to wonder who we could ask to operate it this year.

"We discussed it with Santa, and his first idea was Ringo Starr," Martin said. "When we called Ringo, Santa had already phoned, and he said 'Yes' immediately. We

were just thrilled."

"Ringo recently received Santa-tracking techniques from NORAD technicians and has become an expert in the use of the SantaCam," said Canadian Maj. Gen. Angus Watt, director of operations for NORAD. "We hope he'll capture images of Father Christmas somewhere in Great Britain this year."

"He'll be looking all over Great Britain, Wales, Ireland, Scotland and England," Martin said. "We expect images to come in around 4 p.m. (MST) Christmas Eve. That's around 11 (p.m.) England time."

"Children will see amazing things," Starr said. "I'm privileged to be one of the Santa trackers."

The "Santa-tracking" tradition started in 1955 by pure accident after a Colorado Springs newspaper ran an advertisement for a department store "Santa Hotline." The ad included a special phone number, which turned out to be the operations hotline to NORAD's predecessor, the Continental Air Defense Command. When callers asked to speak to Santa, the servicemembers on duty were surprised to hear 6-year-old children on the hotline.

The senior officer on duty at the

time, Col. Harry Shoup, received the first Santa call. Realizing what had happened, Shoup told the callers he was helping Santa and said his radar screens showed Santa heading south from the North Pole.

His staff quickly jumped in to help handle the influx of calls. A picture of Santa and his reindeer was added to the map of North America, and the tradition was underway.

Local media heard of the calls and reported the story locally. The next year, calls came flooding in to Continental Air Defense Command from children who wanted to know where Santa was. A tradition was born -- a tradition NORAD assumed in 1957. Since then, the program has expanded gradually over the years, hitting the Internet in 1997.

In 2001, NORAD's Santa-tracking mission was nearly forgotten in the wake of the events of Sept. 11, Martin said. It was not until early December that anyone had been able to give the annual tradition any thought. The operations center was

readied and volunteers stood by the phones.

That night, Martin said, "we received a call from a New York City firefighter who was feeling very emotional, because he was with his children on Christmas Eve. This particular person had lost 43 friends in the terrorist attacks.

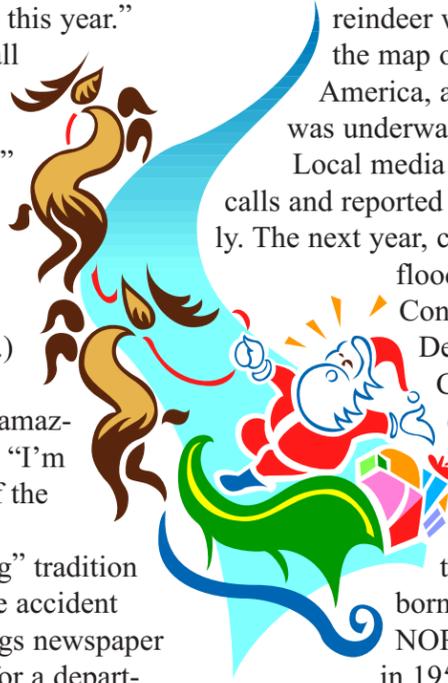
"We were all touched by this firefighter's loss, but it also gave us the realization that we were doing the right thing by making sure that kids around the world knew that NORAD is still tracking Santa," he said.

NORAD's Santa-tracking mission will also be featured on television during a special biography program about Santa on Dec. 18 on A&E Biography.

Children worldwide can phone NORAD's operations center beginning at 7 a.m. MST on Christmas Eve at (719) 474-2111, or toll free outside the Colorado Springs area at (877) Hi-NORAD. Children can also visit the "NORAD Tracks Santa" Web site at www.noradsanta.org to view reports on Santa's progress and to see Starr's SantaCam images.

As an added attraction this year, visitors to NORAD's Santa-tracking Web site will hear some of Starr's Christmas music, including "I Wanna Be Santa Claus."

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)





Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Miller, 460th Civil Engineer Squadron, is greeted by his wife, Stephanie, daughter, Janay, and son, Benjamin at the Denver International Airport on Thanksgiving Eve. He and 21 other members of the squadron returned home after supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom since July 26.

Photo by John M. Spann

Buckley Chapel Schedule



Worship Services and Religious Education

Protestant

Sunday: Bible study, 9 a.m.; Contemporary worship service, 10 a.m.
Tuesday: Aerospace Data Facility Bible study, 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., ADF conference room C.

Wednesday: Singles dorm fellowship: 5 p.m., dormitory lobby.

Catholic

Saturday: Confession, 2:30 p.m.; Mass, 3 p.m.
The Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated Dec. 8 with confessions at 11:30 a.m. and Mass at noon in the base chapel.

Other Faith Groups

Please contact the base chapel at 303-677-6411 for information on local and regional faith groups.

Special events

Fellowship luncheon: Second Wednesday of each month, from 12 to 12:45 p.m for food, fel-

lowship and a brief devotion.

2003 Holiday Cookie Caper

The chapel needs help baking, bagging and delivering cookies. Please bring baked cookies to the chapel by close of business Dec. 10.



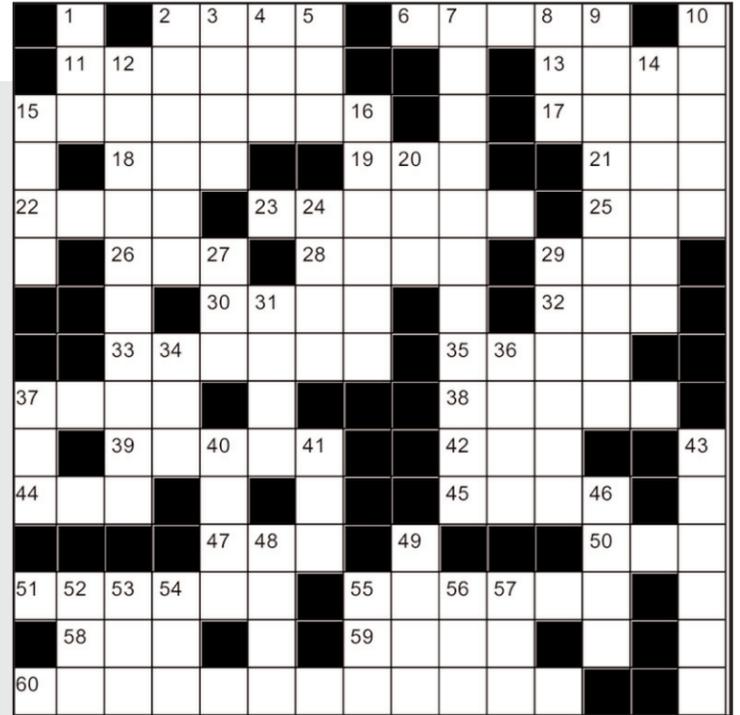
Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

2. Actress Ward
6. Florida AFB home to 33rd FW; a/c tail marking of EG
11. _____ de corps; service pride and loyalty
13. U.S. currency coin
15. KC-10
17. Periods
18. Fighter pilot expert
19. Sphere
21. Owns
22. Actress Petty
23. B-1B
25. Temp. military duty
26. Headed
28. Type of cheese
29. Comedian Margaret
30. Champion
32. Rule
33. F-16
35. Ponderous
37. Abominable snowman
38. Duties
39. Mistake
42. See
44. Combat
45. abcd...jklm....????
47. 2,000 lbs
50. Zero
51. F-15s
55. B-2
58. Formerly
59. Peers; as in court
60. KC-135

DOWN

1. Superman's nemesis
2. Money in coin
3. Sea eagle
4. Top
5. Dined
7. C-17
8. Actress Lupino
9. F-117
10. Sadlier novel, _____ Conway: or The Irish Girl in America
12. C-141
14. Lea
15. Fashionable magazine
16. Brazilian who opened country interior; Candido _____
20. Record company
24. Prefix meaning "air"
27. FedEx rival
29. Clothing spot
31. Greek nymph
34. Breath
36. Installs
37. Shrub tree
40. By memory
41. Galloped
43. C-5
46. Do _____ others
48. Capital of Norway
49. Gyrate
52. Picnic pest
53. Country between Ned. and Pol.
54. Actress Thompson
55. AF lawyer
56. Bother
57. Bread type



By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman

Solutions to last week's puzzle...

